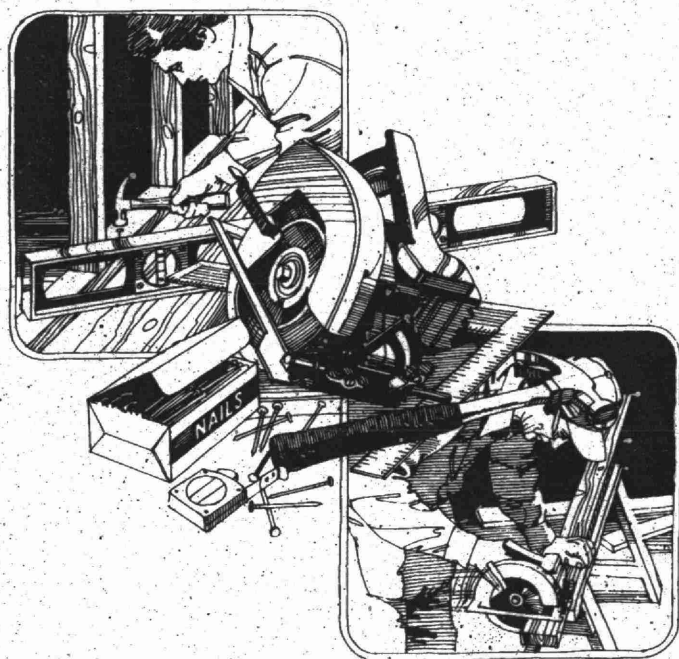


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# What to do with home renovation waste



## DIVERTING RENOVATION MATERIAL FROM DISPOSAL



Ministry of Environment  
and Energy



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## The challenge

- Construction and demolition waste makes up as much as 20% of the waste stream. Residential construction and renovation leftovers account for a third of this wasted material.
- Many municipalities have implemented landfill bans on reusable and recyclable materials such as:

Clean wood  
Clean drywall  
Corrugated cardboard & paper  
Large used appliances  
Scrap metal  
Masonry  
Clean fill

- It is estimated that renovation companies will charge you 5 to 8 per cent of a job's total costs for disposing of materials.

**The solution is to plan, ask questions,  
and consider the following:**

## Who is responsible for disposal of renovation waste?

- If you use a private contractor to do renovations/construction, specify in the contract that it is the contractor's responsibility to remove waste from the job-site, **not just to the curb**.
- If you do the renovation yourself, you will need to dispose of the waste yourself. Refer to the table on the back for options to disposal.
- Many municipalities will not pick up construction/ renovation waste at curbside.** Contact your municipality to determine disposal services available in your area.

## Practice the 3Rs

### Reduce

Less materials purchased means less waste for disposal. You'll save money **and** help the environment.

- Plan room sizes to match standard material dimensions.
- Buy quality, durable materials such as kiln-dried wood, to reduce material waste from warping and shrinkage.
- Avoid over-packaged materials; buy nails and other items in bulk.
- Check measurements before cutting materials.
- Use leftover insulation for sound-proofing interior walls.
- Buy materials made with recycled-content, eg. drainage pipes made with recycled plastics. Watch for BUILD GREEN\* materials at retail outlets near you.
- Use pre-fabricated components such as pre-hung doors.
- Avoid damage of materials by proper handling and storage.

### Reuse

- Identify reusable materials **before** work actually begins.
- Demolish carefully. Salvage materials, such as doors, windows, cabinets, plumbing and electrical fixtures, which have potential for reuse in new projects. Give to friends or local reuse centres. Sell to salvage companies, specialty stores or at your own garage sale.
- Buy pre-used materials from your local reuse centre. Look under **Building Materials—Used** in your Yellow Pages.

### Recycle

- Identify materials that are recyclable (see next page), including clean drywall and wood, corrugated cardboard packaging, scrap metal, concrete, brick and major appliances.

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# What to do with your materials

MATERIALS	DO-IT-YOURSELF HOMEOWNER RENOVATION	HIRING A CONTRACTOR
Clean wood (free of nails, paint, staples etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce waste by purchasing pre-fabricated kits.</li> <li>Reuse on another project or give to a friend for reuse.</li> <li>Send to local reuse centre, if available, for reuse by others.</li> <li>Return full lengths and sheets to retailer.</li> <li>Deliver to local recycling facility if available. Call your municipality or look under recycling services in the Yellow Pages.</li> <li>Deliver contaminated wood to approved disposal facility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specify in the contract that the contractor is responsible for the removal of waste from the job-site.</li> <li>Include requirements that materials such as clean wood, drywall and masonry be recycled, not landfilled.</li> </ul>
Clean drywall (off-cuts/unpainted)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reuse on another project or give to a friend for reuse.</li> <li>Send to local reuse centre, if available, for reuse by others.</li> <li>Return full sheets to retailer.</li> <li>Deliver to local recycling facility if available.</li> <li>Deliver contaminated drywall to approved disposal facility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request that the contractor conduct an audit to identify reusable materials for other projects. Specify that reusable materials not be disposed of as waste in landfill.</li> </ul>
Brick, masonry & tile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reuse in another project or deliver to local recycling facilities for processing if available.</li> <li>Deliver to local cleanfill or lakefill site if available.</li> </ul>	
Scrap metal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reuse siding and metal studs on another project or give to a friend for reuse.</li> <li>Contact scrap metal dealers in your Yellow Pages.</li> </ul>	
Old corrugated containers (OCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flatten, bundle and place at curbside for municipal pick-up or take to recycling depot if available locally.</li> <li>Contact OCC dealers in your local Yellow Pages.</li> </ul>	
Large used appliances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give to a friend or a local charity.</li> <li>Contact local scrap dealers.</li> <li>Old refrigerators, freezers and A/C units should be drained of harmful CFCs by qualified technicians.</li> </ul>	
Insulation materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use to soundproof interior walls or for extra insulation in attic.</li> <li>Give to local reuse centre if available.</li> </ul>	
Fixtures (plumbing, electrical, cabinets etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reuse on another project or give to a friend for reuse.</li> <li>Send to local reuse centre, if available, for reuse by others.</li> </ul>	
Paint, solvents & sealants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buy in quantities to suit immediate application/need.</li> <li>Give unused portion to a friend.</li> <li>Contact local municipality for range of recycling and disposal options such as reuse centres, paint exchange events, household hazardous waste days/depots.</li> </ul>	

# We can help!

## Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators

147 Wyndham Street North, Suite 405  
Guelph, Ont. N1H 4E9  
Phone (519) 823-1990; Fax (519) 823-0084

## BUILD GREEN PROGRAM\*

2395 Speakman Drive  
Mississauga, Ont. L5K 1B3  
Phone (416) 822-4111 Ext.372; Fax (416) 823-1446

## Ministry of Environment and Energy Waste Reduction Office

40 St. Clair Avenue West, 7th Floor  
Toronto, Ont. M4V 1M2  
Phone (416) 325-4440; Fax (416) 325-4437

## Ontario Renovators' Council Ontario Home Builders' Association

20 Upjohn Road  
North York, Ont. M3B 2Y9  
Phone (416) 443-1545; Fax (416) 443-9982  
Toll Free: 1-800-387-0109

## Ontario Waste Exchange

2395 Speakman Drive  
Mississauga, Ont. L5K 1B3  
Phone (416) 822-4111 Ext.656; Fax (416) 823-1446

## Recycling Council of Ontario

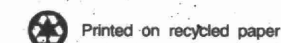
489 College Street, Suite 504  
Toronto, Ont. M6G 1A5  
Phone (416) 960-0938; Fax (416) 960-8053  
Toll Free: 1-800-263-2849

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\* Official mark of ORTECH Corporation. The BUILD GREEN Program is a joint initiative of ORTECH and the GTHBA.

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